

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:667

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005

UTILISATION OF BILATERAL ENTITLEMENTS IN OPERATION OF FLIGHTS

Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private airlines have proposed to start operations to any country to which Air India or Indian Airlines do not operate except Belgium;
- (b) if so, whether the Government's policy was based on the expectation that the Indian side's entitlements under various bilateral would be better utilised;
- (c) if so, with how many countries bilateral entitlements were being utilised by Air India and Indian Airlines prior to the recent permission granted to Jet Airways and Air Sahara to operate to international flights;
- (d) how many countries of the bilateral entitlements are now going to be utilised by the Indian carriers; and
- (e) the policy guidelines that have been put in place to divert the private airlines capacity on routes to countries not served by Indian Airlines and Air India?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) : No, Sir

(b) : The main thrust of the new policy is optimal utilisation of our bilateral rights on the existing as well as new routes and enhancement of direct connectivity on these foreign routes, which are largely served by the indirect carriers at present.

(c) & (d): Currently, Air India and Indian Airlines are together operating to 25 countries. Besides, in some cases, they are also utilizing the traffic rights available through code share services. The number of countries to be served by Indian carrier would increase to 26 for the Summer 2005 schedule.

(e) : While the Gulf routes have been kept reserved for Air India and Indian Airlines for a period of three year, operations on all other routes will be determined on the operational plans of the carriers and availability of traffic rights and slots at airports.